

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 968
By Finney

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sergeant Paul W.
Thomason III of Jefferson City.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Tennessee Army National Guard today; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous Volunteer, Sergeant Paul William Thomason III of 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard, lost his life on March 20, 2005, in pursuit of freedom and democracy for the people of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, he was fatally wounded in an action near Kirkuk in the At-Ta'mim province of Iraq while conducting security and stability operations; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Sergeant Thomason did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people from the chains of injustice; and

WHEREAS, a beloved father, husband, brother, son, and grandson, Paul W. Thomason III now lies at rest among the lovely and peaceful hills of Tennessee, which he loved so dearly as part of the land he gave his life to protect; and

WHEREAS, by displaying the patriotism and honor for which he was well known, Sergeant Thomason was the embodiment of the American hero; he believed deeply in America and the virtue of its cause, never hesitating to sacrifice himself to defend his beloved nation, its citizens, or a fellow serviceman; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Paul W. Thomason III, a 1986 graduate of Sevier County High School, enjoyed a life lived to the fullest, boldly rising to whatever challenge presented itself; and

WHEREAS, this superlative individual won the hearts of many, was deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he will be dearly missed by his beloved wife, Amanda; his son, Asher Crockett; his daughters, Megan Leigh, Piper Moranda, and Cora Mae; his mother and step-father, Gayle and Roger Thomas; his father and stepmother, Paul and Roberta Thomason, Jr., his grandmother, Lucy Hurst; and his siblings, Christal Breeden, April Gibson, and Jason Thomason; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by one stepbrother, Josh Williams; one stepsister, Stephanie Hoyle; his mother-in-law, Patty Moran; his father-in-law and wife, Jerry and Donna Latham; aunts and uncles, Benny and Patty Gann, Johnny and Doris Thomason, Jimmy and Wanda Graves, Wayne Graves, and Ruby Flynn; friends, Preston Cox, Stacy Daughman, and Kenny Hardwick; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Paul W. Thomason III served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the Tennessee National Guard, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Thomason's dedication to excellence and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, as exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Sergeant Paul W. Thomason III, Tennessee Army National Guard, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Sergeant Paul William Thomason III, a man of impeccable character, limitless courage, and stalwart commitment to the defense of his nation as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, reflecting fondly upon his bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Sergeant Paul W. Thomason III.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.